The following statement regarding international rubber arrangements since April 1944, has been obtained from the London Rubber Secretariat, and is circulated for the information of members of the Committee.

1. The International Rubber Regulation terminated on 30 April 1944, and from that time until September 1944, no international arrangements for rubber were in existence except the Combined Rubber Board in America which allocated the limited supplies of natural rubber on a voluntary basis to Allied and Neutral countries and whose work terminates at the end of this year.

2. In August 1944, talks were held in London between delegations representing the United States, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom to find out whether any satisfactory machinery could be devised for continuing consultation between the three governments on rubber problems.

3. As a result of these talks it was announced on 23 September 1944, that representatives of the Governments of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States would meet from time to time as an informal Rubber Study Group with the following terms of reference:
   
   (a) The Group shall meet from time to time to discuss common problems arising from the production, manufacture and use of rubber, crude, synthetic and reclaimed.
(b) Studies will be initiated and possible solutions to rubber problems will be considered. However, the Group as such will not formulate and transmit recommendations to the participating governments although the latter will be kept fully informed of the proceedings of the Group through their representatives.

(c) Arrangements will be made for other interested governments to be kept informed of the studies made and of the results of the discussion as far as practicable.

(d) The Rubber Study Group will continue to function during such period as, in the opinion of each of the participating governments, it continues to serve the purposes for which it is designed.

4. The Rubber Study Group has since been enlarged by the inclusion of the French Government.

5. The Group has held two meetings, the first in Washington in January 1945, and the second, at which France joined the Group for the first time, in London in November 1945. A third meeting will be held shortly at the Hague.

6. Up to date the Group has devoted its attention and discussions mainly to studying the world rubber supply demand position. It has kept non-member governments fully informed of the result of its studies and deliberations, and it has published communiques explaining its set up and objectives and giving a general summary of its conclusions. It should be emphasized that the Group as at present composed is an informal body whose main function is to provide a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas, that it has no powers of joint recommendation and that it has no connection whatsoever with the old International Rubber Regulation scheme, which, as already stated, came to an end on 30 April 1944.
7. The personnel of the Secretariat of the International Rubber Regulation Committee were taken over by the British Government in May 1944, and became the Rubber Intelligence Branch of the Colonial Office. When the Rubber Study Group was set up it was decided for the time being not to establish a special secretariat for the Group but that the Group should rely on facilities at the disposal of the participating Governments. Accordingly the American Government made their own arrangements and the British and Dutch Governments (joined later by the French Government) set up the personnel of the Rubber Intelligence Branch of the Colonial Office as the London Rubber Secretariat; this Secretariat works under a Directing Committee consisting of four members of each of the three governments and its main functions are to collect statistical and other information regarding rubber and rubber substitutes and to make such studies as are referred to it by the Rubber Study Group and by the Directing Committee.